

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Matthew McLaughlin
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 08/18/25 Return: 08/25/25  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Dulles (IAD) Destination: Bogota, Cartegena Return City: Dulles (IAD)
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc. Luminate Foundation, Inc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: The delegation held various meetings with government officials, civil society, and the colombian military to discuss U.S.-Colombia relations and countering illegal drug trafficking and transnational crime organizations
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 09/03/25

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Gregory W. Meeks Date: 09/03/2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Travel Destination(s): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): \_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* You may list more than one traveler on a form only if **all** information is **identical** for each person listed.

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler				
Accompanying Family Member				

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Julie Varghese Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

**I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Matthew Melnyk
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Atlantic Council, Luminate
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Colombia
4. a. Date of Departure: Aug 18, 2025 Date of Return: Aug 24 2025  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:  
(1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
(3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

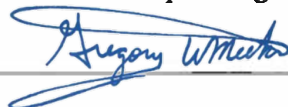
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**  
As the ~~professor~~ professional staff member handling the Western Hemisphere, Colombia falls into my portfolio. Meetings with government and civil society members will help inform my work at HFAC on behalf of the Ranking Member
9. Yes  No  **Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

## ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 7-17-2025

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

**Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date.** Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Matthew McLaughlin

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

**I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): House Foreign Affairs Committee

Office Address: 2471 Rayburn Hob. 45 Independence ave SW Washington DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202 225 5021

Email Address of Contact Person: Matthew.McLaughlin@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

**NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.**

**KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM.** Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.

2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. **Check only one.** I represent that:

- a.  The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
- b.  The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
- c.  The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: The Luminate Foundation

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): (Please see page 4)

5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: August 18, 2025 Date of Return: August 25, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Dulles, Virginia

b. Destination(s): Bogota, Colombia; Cartagena, Colombia

c. City of return: Dulles, Virginia

8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- a.  The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- b.  The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- c.  The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
  - b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.
12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor’s interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
Please see page 5
- 

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
  - b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If “b” is checked:
    - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$126.00/per day
    - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: The staffers are visiting Colombia as the US's major non-NATO ally in the region, to observe the pivotal role US-Colombia ties play in promoting hemispheric security.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: <u>JW Marriot</u>	City: <u>Bogota</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$180.00/per night</u>	
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>Proximity to meetings in Bogota</u>			
Hotel Name: <u>Casa La Factoria by Faranada Boutique</u>	City: <u>Cartagena</u>	Cost Per Night: <u>\$229.00/per night</u>	
Reason(s) for Selecting: <u>Proximity to meetings in Cartagena</u>			
Hotel Name: _____	City: _____	Cost Per Night: _____	
Reason(s) for Selecting: _____			

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$1,800	\$2,100	\$1,050
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A


	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$750	Taxis, Ubers and Interpretation
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 7/3/2025  
 Name: Julie Varghese Title: Chief Operating Officer  
 Organization: Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.  
 Address: 1400 L St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington D.C., 20005  
 Email: jvarghese@atlanticcouncil.org Telephone: 202-213-8200

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

## Attendees list

- Lisette Linares (Gabe Evans)
- Victoria Rivas (Pete Aguilar)
- Cristian Figueredo (Cliff Bentz)
- Sean Smith (Maria Salazar)
- Max Price (Debbie Wasserman Schultz)
- Ryan Murguía (Senate Rules)
- Matthew McLaughlin (House Foreign Affairs Committee)
- Geoff Ramsey (Atlantic Council)
- Isabella Palacios (Atlantic Council)

10. Detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

**Monday, August 18 – Washington, DC (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Casual for Travel*

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>3:30 a.m. ET</b>        | <b>Arrival to Dulles International Airport</b>  |
| <b>6:00 a.m. ET</b>        | <b>Atlantic Council delegation departs from Dulles International Airport (IAD)</b><br><i>Delta Airlines: Economy, Airbus A319, Flight: DL 2550</i>                              |
| <b>1:40 p.m. COT</b>       | <b>Atlantic Council Delegation arrives in Bogota</b>  |
| <b>2:30 – 3:30 p.m.</b>    | <b>Transit to hotel</b>   |
| <b>3:30 pm – 4:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Hotel Check-in</b><br><b>JW Marriot</b> (Cl. 73 #8-60, Chapinero, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia)  |
| <b>4:00 – 7:30 p.m.</b>    | <b>Break</b>  |
| <b>7:30 – 9:30 p.m.</b>    | <b>Dinner with key Atlantic Council Colombia stakeholders based in Colombia</b><br><u>Location:</u> <b>JW Marriot</b> (Cl. 73 #8-60, Chapinero, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia) |

Participants:

- **Ambassador Mariana Pacheco**, Former Ambassador from Colombia to India, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives
- **Raul Rosende**, Director, United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia

Description: This will be a private informal dinner with members of the multisectoral, binational and non-partisan US-Colombia Advisory Group of the Atlantic Council, which includes experts in US-Colombia ties based in Colombia and in the US, and other local AC stakeholders.

Topics:

- State of bilateral cooperation on counternarcotics
- Overview of the political landscape and upcoming elections in Colombia
- Addressing tensions in commercial ties between the two countries

**Tuesday, August 19 – Bogotá, Colombia** (all times in local time)

*Dress code: Business Professional*

**\*REMINDER: Please bring your passport for entrance into the US Embassy and Ministry of Foreign Affairs\***

**Breakfast at the hotel** (*Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.*)

**8:45 a.m. Meet in hotel lobby**

**8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Transit to Embassy of the United States in Bogotá, Colombia**

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m. MCT Briefing at the US Embassy in Bogota**

Location: US Embassy in Bogota, Cl. 24 Bis #48-50, Bogotá, Colombia

Participants:

- **John McNamara**, Chargé d'Affaires, United States Embassy in Colombia
- **Ann Hardman, Deputy Chief of Mission**, United States Embassy in Colombia
- **Ben Hess**, US Department of State's Political Section
- **Christopher McHone**, US Department of State's Economics Section
- **Lance Hegerle**, US International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL)
- **Kris Jarvis**, US Department of Justice
- **Jane Garrido**, US Department of Labor
- **Matthew Poole**, Deputy Senior Commercial Officer, US Department of State's Foreign Commercial Service
- **Representative from** US Department of State's Foreign Agricultural Service
- **Representative from** Drug Enforcement Administration
- **William Bistransky**, Bureau of Consular Affairs

Description: This briefing will provide an overview of the current state of the US-Colombia bilateral relationship, areas of priority and strategic engagement for the US, as well as ongoing projects the embassy is leading. The meeting will be private and off-the-record.

Topics:

- Cooperation on counternarcotics and law enforcement efforts
- Success of ongoing US funded projects in Colombia
- Overview of the history of the bilateral relationship

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Transit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Participants:

- **Rafael Orozco Garcia**, Director, Americas, Colombia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Jhon Jairo Camargo**, Director, International Legal Affairs
- **Adriana Mendoza Agudelo**, Director, Multilateral Political Affairs
- **Javier Pava Sánchez**, Director, Territorial Sovereignty
- **Germán Andrés Calderón**, Coordinator of Drug-related affairs
- **Andres Felipe Perez Rodriguez**, Director, Migration, Consular Affairs, and Citizen Services
- **Geraldine Cuervo**, Coordinator for the United States and Canada

Description: This meeting will be an opportunity to hear about Colombia's foreign policy priorities and its work with the United States and other Latin American partners.

Topics:

- Security and economic cooperation with the United States and regional partners
- Efforts to combat narco trafficking and transnational organized crime
- Colombia's response to the situation in Venezuela

12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

**Transit to ANDI Headquarters ([National Business Association of Colombia](#))**

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

**Lunch and discussion with ANDI (National Business Association of Colombia)**

Location: calle 73 # 8 -13 piso (Sala de Juntas) Torre A

Participants:

- **Paola Buendía**, Executive Vice President, ANDI
- **Alfonso Palacios Torres**, Vice President of Legal Affairs, ANDI
- **Adriana Vargas**, Director of Industry, ANDI
- **Ana Cortázar**, Director of International Affairs, ANDI
- **Juan Manuel Lesmes Patiño**, Director, Fedemetal Chamber, ANDI
- **Juan Camilo Montes Pineda**, Director, Food Industry, ANDI
- **Juliana Villegas Restrepo**, Director of International Promotion and Business Development, Araújo Ibarra.

Description: The fellows will meet with members of the ANDI which represent various sectors of the Colombian economy to discuss their views of the political landscape in Colombia and some of the implications of the US-Colombia trade dynamics.

Topics:

- Strategic private sector industries for the bilateral relationship
- Implications of US-Colombia commercial tensions for Colombian and US businesses.
- Private sector views of the current Petro government

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**Transit to Mayor of Bogotá's Office**

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

**Meeting with Mayor of Bogotá's team**

Location: a 10-99, Cra. 8 #10-1, Bogotá, Colombia

Participants:

- **Jimena Niño**, Bogotá's International Relations Advisor
- **César Restrepo**, Bogotá's Secretary of Security
- **Carlos Andrés Daniels Jaramillo**, Undersecretary of Housing Inspection, Oversight, and Control, Secretariat of Habitat, Mayor's Office of Bogotá

Description: The fellows will meet with the Mayor of Bogotá's team for a private meeting to discuss their development plan of the city and the current challenges the city faces at a subnational level.

Topics:

- Policy to reduce local crime vs. organized crime in Bogotá
- Challenges with droughts leading to energy and water shortages
- Subnational diplomacy and engagement with other US cities

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**Break**

6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

**Transit to dinner with Commission of Congressional Friendship Group between Colombia and the United States**

7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

**Dinner with Senator Efraín Cepeda and [Commission of Congressional friendship group between Colombia and the United States](#)**

Location: Restaurante Pajares Salinas, Cra 10 #96-8, Bogotá, Colombia

Participants:

- Senator [Efraín Cepeda](#), President of the Colombian Senate
- Óscar Suárez Ramírez, Advisor to Senator Efraín Cepeda
- Senator [Nicolás Echeverry](#) (Partido Conservador)
- Senator [Carlos Abraham Jiménez](#) (Cambio Radical)

Description: This will be a private, informal dinner with Senator Cepeda and Other Colombian senators that are part of the new US-Colombia friendship group in the Senate. [The group visited the US to meet with a series of members in the House and Senate earlier in the year.](#)

Topics:

- Importance of US-Colombia legislative ties
- Legislative efforts to strengthen the bilateral relationship

**Wednesday, August 20 – Bogotá, Colombia (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Business for briefings, meetings, and dinner.*

**Breakfast at the hotel** (*Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.*)

8:00 a.m.                      **Meet in hotel lobby**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.            **Transit to Colombian Congress**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.        **Meeting with [Colombia's Afro Colombian Legal Commission](#), Colombia's House of Representatives**

Location: Colombia National Capitol, Carrera 7 No. 8-68 en Bogotá, D.C.

Participants:

- [Gersel Luis Pérez Altamiranda](#), President, Colombia's Afro Colombian Legal Commission
- [Karen Juliana López Salazar](#), Vice President, Colombia's Afro Colombian Legal Commission
- **Jorge Luis Utria Pino**, Secretary, Colombia's Afro Colombian Legal Commission

Description: The fellows will meet with the members of the legal commission that represent many peripheral parts of Colombia that have been most impacted by the ongoing conflict.

Topics:

- Ongoing efforts to combat the ongoing conflict across Colombia.
- US-Colombia legislative ties
- Progress of the implementation of the 2016 peace accord.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.        **Transit to Ministry of Defense Colombia**

11:45 – 12:45 p.m.

**Meeting with Ministry of Defense's team**

**Location:** Cra. 54 #26-25, Bogotá, Colombia

Description: The fellows will meet with the Ministry of Defense's team to get an overview of the current conflict dynamics across Colombia and discuss the government's efforts to address growing illicit drug flows and activity across the country.

Topics:

- Ongoing US-Colombia cooperation on counternarcotics and law enforcement.
- Tackling the growth of criminal markets across Colombia
- US-Colombia joint police and military operations

12:45 – 1:00 p.m.

**Transit to lunch**

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Lunch with Samantha Schmidt, Washington Post**

**Location:** Restaurante Di Lucca, Cl. 24a #60-49, Bogotá, Colombia

Participants:

- **Samantha Schmidt**, Washington Post
- **Valentina Vera Quiroz**, Associate for Latin America, Luminate Foundation

Description: The fellows will hear from Samantha's perspective on the evolving US-Colombia relationship and key developments affecting bilateral cooperation, including Colombia's political landscape and Colombia-Venezuela relations.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

**Transit to Grupo Contra el Crimen Organizado (GCO)**

**Location:** Ac. 26 #7525, Bogotá, Colombia

2:45 – 4:15 p.m.

**Observation Activity: Grupo Contra el Crimen Organizado**

Participants:

- **Jose Ramirez**, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- **John Szypula**, Aviation Division Chief, Program Manager, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- **Krista Bustamante**, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Description: The fellows will visit the Grupo Contra el Crimen Organizado, a multinational task force dedicated to combating translational organized crime through real time intelligence sharing. Established by the Colombian Ministry of Defense and National Police with support from U.S. International Narcotics and Law Enforcements Affairs (INL) facilitates cooperation between Colombia, the United States, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina and other partner countries. Fellows will observe how intelligence is shared in real time to disrupt criminal activity.

Topics:

- Real time intelligence sharing and regional coordination to tackle translational crime

**4:15 – 4:30 p.m.**                    **Transit to Compañía Antinarcóticos de Selección de Objetivos (CASOB)**

**Location:** Calle 25G #85C-91

**4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**                    **Observation Activity: Compañía Antinarcóticos de Selección de Objetivos (CASOB)**

Participants:

- **Brigadier General Ricardo Sánchez Silvestre**, Director, Antinarcotics Department, Colombia's National Police
- **Daniel Durazo**, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
- **John Szypula**, Aviation Division Chief, Program Manager, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

Description: The fellows will visit the Narcotics Targeting Company (CASOB), a center that supports Colombia's antinarcotics efforts by identifying suspect cargo linked to drug trafficking. Established by the Ministry of Commerce, National Police, and the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN) with support from the U.S. International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), CASOB works closely with the Organized Crime Group (GCO) to flag high-risk containers. The center also plays a key role in monitoring the import of substances used in drug production.

Topics:

- Identification of high-risk cargo
- Monitoring of chemical imports used in drug production
- Coordination between intelligence agencies to disrupt transnational criminal activity

**5:30 – 7:15 p.m.**                    **Transit back to hotel and break**

**7:15 p.m.**                                **Meet in hotel lobby**

**7:15 – 7:30 p.m.**                    **Transit back to dinner**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**                    **Dinner with Colombian Civil Society NGOs**

**Location:** Restaurante Dolores, Cl. 76 #10-44, Chapinero, Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia

Participants:

- **Wilson Castaneda Castro**, Director, [Caribe Afirmativo](#)
- **Sebastián Lanz**, Co-Executive Director, [Tembloros Colombia](#)
- **Maria Victoria Llorente**, Executive Director, [Ideas para la Paz](#)
- **Salomon Majbub**, [INDEPAZ](#)
- **Marco Romero Silva**, Director, [CODHES](#)
- **Sergio Guzman**, [Colombia Risk Analysis](#)
- **Valentina Vera Quiroz**, Associate for Latin America, Luminate Foundation

Description: This will be a private informal dinner with prominent NGOs in Colombia who mostly focus on supporting the peace process in Colombia and helping address the ongoing conflict, by providing support to former and current victims in areas affected by illegal armed actors.

Topics:

- The role of the NGOs supporting the peace process in Colombia.
- Addressing the lagging implementation of the 2016 peace accord.

**Thursday, August 21 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes (jeans are acceptable)*

**4:45 – 5:00 a.m. Meet in hotel lobby for check out**

**5:00 – 5:30 a.m. Transit to Bogota Airport**

**7:05 – 8:38 a.m. Flight from Bogota to Cartagena**

**Flight:** LATAM, Economy, Airbus  
A320, LA 4092

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Private transport to hotel in Cartagena**

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Hotel Check-in**

Hotel: Casa La Factoría by Faranda Boutique (Cra. 3a #36–13, El Centro, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia)

**11:30 – 1:45 p.m. Break**

**1:45 Meet in hotel lobby**

**2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Transit to [Contecar Port Terminal](#)**

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m. Tour: CONTECAR- DIRAN port facilities**

Description: The fellows will visit the Contecar Port for a tour with representatives from the Port of Cartagena Group, DEA, CBP and the [Colombian National Police's Anti-narcotics \(DIRAN\)](#) division.

Topics:

- Cargo screening processes for illicit goods
- Colombia's approach to tackling transnational narcotics shipping.
- Public-private partnerships to bolster maritime and port security.

**3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Briefing with DEA and CBP officials**

**Location:** Vía Mamonal Km. 1., Albornoz – Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

Participants:

- **Jennifer Sharpe**, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- **Jose Gonzalez-Cardona**, Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Description: The fellows will receive a briefing from officials of the DEA and CBP on their roles and operations in Colombia. The session will cover how these agencies collaborate with each other and Colombian institutions to address drug trafficking and other security challenges in key maritime points.

Topics:

- US-Colombia cooperation on strengthening port security
- The role of intelligence and tactical analysis in detecting and preventing maritime criminal activity

**4:30 – 5:15 p.m.**

**Transit to Naval Base ARC Bolivar**

**Location:** Cra. 2 #10-2, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

**5:15 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Briefing with Colombian Navy**

Participants:

- [Juan Ricardo Rozo Obregón](#), Commander of the Colombian Navy
- **Alfonso Córdoba García**, Commander, San Andrés and Providencia Command, Colombian Navy
- **Juan Manuel París Bermúdez**, Chief, Naval Intelligence Directorate, Colombian Navy
- **Captain David Sánchez**, Director of Counter-Narcotics, Colombian Navy

Description: The fellows will receive a high-level briefing on naval operations in Colombia from senior naval leaders. The session will cover Colombia's maritime security priorities, regional challenges, and the Navy's role in safeguarding national waters and supporting broader regional security priorities.

Topics:

- Overview of Colombian naval operations
- The navy's role in countering maritime threats and illicit trafficking
- Regional cooperation in maritime security

**7:30 – 7:45 p.m.**

**Transit to dinner**

**7:45 – 9:45 p.m.**

**Dinner with the Navy**

**Location:** Restaurante Cabresante, Castillogrande, Cra. 14 #6-75 Club Naval de Oficiales

Description: This informal dinner will be an opportunity to engage in open conversation with Colombian naval officers, learn about their experiences, and deepen understanding of the Colombian Navy's mission and operations

**Friday, August 22 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes (jeans are acceptable)*

**Breakfast at the hotel** (*Breakfast is included in your room reservation. Please enjoy in the hotel lobby at your convenience.*)

**8:30 a.m.**

**Meet in hotel lobby**

**8:30 – 8:45 a.m.**

**Transit to Naval Base ARC Bolivar**

**Location:** Cra. 2 #10-2, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

**8:45 – 10:15 a.m.      Tour and briefing- Cartagena Coast Guard Station**

Participants:

- **Jaime Enrique González Zamudio**, Commander of the Caribbean Coast Guard

Description: The fellows will visit the Cartagena Coast Guard station, located within the Naval Base, for a tour and briefing. The Coast Guard commander will present an overview of the current coastal maritime drug trafficking landscape, common smuggling tactics, and the strategies employed to detect and interdict illicit maritime activity in Colombian territorial waters.

Topics:

- Maritime security threats in Colombia's coastal waters
- Approaches to detecting and interdicting narcotics trafficking in territorial waters
- Cooperation with the Colombian navy and other agencies

**10:15 – 10:25 a.m.      Transit to Naval Academy via maritime route**

**Location:** a 21a-169, Tv. 54 #21a-15, Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar, Colombia

**10:25 – 12:15 p.m.      Briefing at Coast Guard International School (ESCIG)**

Participants:

- **Juan Pablo Serrano Guzmán**, Director of the Operational Coordination Center
- **Captain David Sánchez**, Director of Counter-Narcotics
- **Carlos Uribe Jiménez**, Director of the International Coast Guard School

Description: The fellows will visit ESCIG for a briefing on Colombia's maritime security efforts. Officials from the International Center for Maritime Narcotics Research and Analysis (CMCON) will present the Orion Multilateral Strategy and provide an overview of ESCIG's role in regional capacity-building. The session will include a demonstration of the recently INL-supported upgrade to a maritime interdiction simulator.

Topics:

- Regional maritime security cooperation
- Capacity-building and training for maritime forces

**12:15 – 12:30 p.m.      Maritime transit to Club de Pesca**

**Location:** Club de Pesca (Manga – Fort San Sebastian del Pastelillo)

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch with [Jaime Asprilla](#), Executive Director of the National Association of Mayors and Governors of Municipalities and Departments with Afro descendant Population (AMUNAFRO)

Description: This will be an opportunity to hear about challenges and opportunities facing Afro-Colombian municipalities, including issues related to security and economic development, and the implementation of the 2016 Peace Accord. Jaime will explain AMUNAFRO's role in supporting local leaders to address these issues and promote inclusive development, as well as their work in cooperation with US institutions.

Topics:

- Overview of the economic and security situation in Afro-Colombian municipalities
- Coordinated efforts to strengthen local governance and advance economic development
- US-backed initiatives supporting security in marginalized communities

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Transit to Chamber of Commerce in Cartagena

2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting with [Chamber of Commerce in Cartagena](#) (Meeting with their team)  
**Location:** Cl. 28 #27-23, Manga, Cartagena de Indias, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

Participants:

- **Andrea Pina Gomez**, Executive President
- **Jessica Ponce**, Market and Communications Chief, Cartagena Chamber of Commerce
- **Carolina Rosales**, Executive Director, Invest in Cartagena

Description: The fellows will meet with the leadership team of Cartagena's Chamber of Commerce to learn about the key industries and businesses that operate or have investments in Cartagena.

Topics:

- Ways to foster and drive foreign investment in cities that rely on tourism.
- US investment and commercial ties with Cartagena

3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Transit back to hotel in Cartagena and break

7:15 – 7:30 p.m.

Transit to dinner

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Informal dinner with Jaime Asprilla and Robert Asprilla

## **Saturday, August 23 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Dressy Casual, light clothes*

**8:45 a.m. Meet in hotel lobby**

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m. Transit to [San Basilio de Palenque](#)**

Description: This will be half day visit to San Basilio de Palenque, the first free town in the Americas founded by formerly enslaved people, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005. It will be an opportunity for fellows to gain firsthand insight into how Afro-Colombian communities navigate issues of governance, economic development and community security.

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Cultural Demonstration**

**Location:** Palacio de la Cultura, San Basilio de Palenque

Description: Fellows will learn about San Basilio de Palenque's history, art and music, witnessing how ancestral traditions continue to shape community life, local economic activity, and development processes.

**11:00 – 1:30 p.m. Meeting with Community Leaders**

Participants:

- **Keinel Sinarra**, President, Ma-Kankamaná Community Council
- **Dorina Hernández Palomino**, Congresswoman from Palenque
- **Miguel Obeso**, community leader, economist, and Palenquero professor
- **Manuel Casseres Reyes**, Special representative, Palenque municipality
- **Francisco Hernandez**, community leader
- **Ronal Miranda Márquez** – Chair, Board of Directors, Makamkana
- **Rubén Hernández Cassiani** – Historian, University Academy
- **Basilia Pérez Márquez** – Representative, Benkos Bioho Educational Institution
- **Luis Deider Casseres Navarro** – Youth Leader

Description: Fellows will engage with Palenquero leaders to understand the community's economic and security landscape, explore how local governance is structured, and learn how ethnic authorities collaborate with national and US institutions to drive development.

Topics:

- Governance structures and priorities in ethnic territories
- Overview of Palenque's economic and security situation
- Relationship between local authorities, the national government, and international partners

**1:30– 2:30 p.m.**

**Typical lunch**

Description: This will be an opportunity for fellows to continue their conversations with San Basilio de Palenque’s community leaders over lunch.

**2:30– 3:30 p.m.**

**Palenque’s heritage and entrepreneurship tour**

Description: San Basilio de Palenque’s community leaders, joined by a local guide, will provide a hands-on briefing highlighting local initiatives to transform ancestral practices into income-generating activities, including artisanal candy making and traditional apparel. The group will also visit the Museo Simancongo to learn about the town’s history and how it connects to the current realities faced by Afro-Colombian and other communities hardest hit by the armed conflict.

Topics:

- Sustainable economic development models rooted in ancestral traditions
- Historical legacy of San Basilio de Palenque and its influence on present-day livelihoods

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Transit back to hotel in Cartagena**

**5:00 – 7:15 p.m.**

**Break**

**7:15 p.m.**

**Meet in hotel lobby**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Closing dinner (delegation-only)**

**Location:** Restaurante Juan del Mar, Plaza de San Diego 8-12, Provincia de Cartagena, Bolívar, Colombia

Description: This session will be an opportunity for fellows to come together to reflect on key takeaways from the week’s engagements. Fellows will discuss opportunities and challenges facing Colombia, share insights gained from meetings and site visits across Bogota and Cartagena, and debrief how these experiences have shaped their understanding of US-Colombia cooperation.

**Sunday, August 24 – Cartagena, Colombia (all times in local time)**

*Dress code: Casual for travel*

**8:30 a.m.**

**Delegation meets in hotel lobby to check out and depart for airport**  
Dress code: casual attire

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Transport to Cartagena Airport**

**11:24 pm – 12:21 a.m. Group Flight to Washington, DC**

**Flight:** (1) LATAM, Economy, Airbus A320, LA 4107 (To Bogotá)  
(2) Delta, Economy, Boeing 757, DL 983 (to Atlanta)  
(3) Delta, Economy, Airbus A220, DL 2549 (To IAD)

**12:21 a.m. ET**

**Arrive in Washington, DC on Monday, August 25 in the morning**  
Arrival: Dulles International Airport (IA)



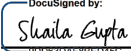
# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## ADDITIONAL TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by an organization that provides funds, services, or in-kind assistance to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. **Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.**

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor for this trip: The Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc.
2. Name of your organization: Luminate Foundation, Inc.
3. Yes  No  Is your organization designated a § 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service?
4. Yes  No  Does your organization receive funding from any foreign government or multinational organization?
5. **Check one.** I certify that my organization:
  - a.  Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. **OR**
  - b.  Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to  
Destination: \_\_\_\_\_ on Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
that is being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor. **OR**
  - c.  Has provided in-kind support to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor (e.g., meeting planning assistance, meeting space and set-up, and paying for expenses related to this trip directly to the service provider).
6. **Check only one:**
  - a.  My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent **OR**
  - b.  My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
7. **I certify by my signature that**
  - a. I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;
  - b. I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent;
  - c. I am an officer of this organization and am duly authorized to sign this form; and
  - d. The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 7/10/2025

Name: Shaila Gupta Title: VP, Finance and Operations

Organization: Luminate Foundation Inc.

Address: 1200 17th St NW, Suite 501, Washington DC 20036

Telephone: 202-753-8729 Email: legal@luminategroup.com

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
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Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

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1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

August 14, 2025

Mr. Matthew McLaughlin  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2471 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Colombia,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for August 18 to 25, 2025, sponsored by Atlantic Council of the United States, Inc. and Luminate Foundation, Inc.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$480] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

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<sup>1</sup> Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or [ohsstaff@mail.house.gov](mailto:ohsstaff@mail.house.gov). House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest  
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:nl